

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Filepp et al. Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned [2302]
08/933,488
Serial No. : ~~To Be Assigned~~ Examiner: To Be Assigned
[Continuation of [M.B. Geckil]
~~08/740,043~~
Filed : September 18, 1997
For : INTERACTIVE COMPUTER NETWORK AND METHOD
OF OPERATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.115, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment prior to examination or other action in the above-identified application.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification as follows:

At page 2, delete lines 4 to 9 and insert the following in its place:

This is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/740,043 filed October 23, 1996, now ^{US Patent} ~~pending~~ ^{5,758,1072}. Application Serial No. 08/740,043 is a division of Application Serial No. 08/158,026 filed November 26, 1993, which issued January 14, 1997 as U.S. Patent No. 5,594,910. Application Serial No.

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08/158,026 is a division of Application Serial No. 07/388,156 filed July 28, 1989, which issued September 13, 1994 as U.S. Patent No. 5,347,632. Application Serial No. 07/388,156 is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 07/328,790 filed March 23, 1989, now abandoned. Application Serial No. 07/328,790 is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 07/219,931 filed July 15, 1988, now abandoned]--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims 33 to 38.

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33. (new) A system for automatically updating a program stored in a remote computer, the system comprising:

a remote computer including a remote memory for storing a program and a remote revision status,

the remote program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the remote memory;

a main computer including a main memory for storing the latest revisions of the program and a main program revision status,

the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the main memory;

means for transmitting the remote program revision status from the remote computer to the main computer;

means for comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status;

means for determining which portions of the program stored in a main memory are different from the program stored in the remote memory;

means for transmitting updated portions of the program stored in the main computer to the remote computer;

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means for replacing portions of the program stored in the remote computer with updated portions of the program received from the main computer; and

means for transmitting the new program revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

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34. (new) The system of claim 33, further comprising

means for storing and maintaining variable data and constant data related to a plurality of products in the memory of the main computer,

means for storing constant data related to a plurality of products in the memory of the remote computer,

means for selecting a product from the remote computer memory for which product information is desired,

means for comparing constant data in the memory of the remote computer with constant data in the memory of the main computer,

means for determining updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer that are different than the constant data stored in the remote computer,

means for transmitting the updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer from the main computer to the remote computer, and

means for replacing portions of the constant data stored on the remote computer with the updated portions of constant data received from the main computer.

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35. (new) The system of claim 34, further comprising

means for integrating constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer associated with the selected product with the variable

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data received from the main computer to provide information related to the selected product including both constant and variable data.

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36.

(new) The system of claim 34, further comprising
means for storing and maintaining a main constant data revision status in the memory of the main computer,
the main constant data revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the main computer,
means for storing a remote constant data revision status in the memory of the remote computer, and
the remote constant data revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the remote computer.

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37. (new) The system of claim 36, wherein
the means for comparing constant data in the memory of the remote computer with constant data in the memory of the main computer compares the remote constant data revision status with the main constant data revision status maintained in the main computer.

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(new) The system of claim 37, wherein
the means for transmitting updated portions of the constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer also transmits an updated remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

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REMARKS

New claims 33 to 38 have been copied from and correspond to what Applicants have reason to believe are pending claims 66-71 of an application of Charles E. Hill which is directed to a system for updating a program on a remote computer. Applicants have reason to believe the pending Hill application is a continuing application based on U.S. Application Serial No. 866,867 (filed April 10, 1992), which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,528,490 on June 18, 1996.

Applicants' present application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/740,043 and was filed specifically to copy claims from, and provoke an interference with, the pending Hill application. A Filing Under 37 C.F.R. §1.60 and Request For Declaration Of An Interference Under 37 C.F.R. §1.604 are being submitted contemporaneously herewith.

Support In Applicants' Disclosure For Newly Presented Claims 33 to 38

As shown in detail by the following chart, new claims 33 to 38 are supported by the specification and drawings of the above-identified application.

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
33. A system for automatically updating a program stored in a remote computer, the system comprising:	The Filepp et al. system provides for, inter alia, updating program instructions (portions of a program) and other information (collectively called "objects") stored in a remote computer.
a remote computer including a remote memory for storing a program and a remote revision status,	Filepp et al. disclose a remote computer (each called a reception system ("RS")) with memory for storing programs having revision indicia [described in the next block, below] in a network that features a plurality of such remote computers for displaying information and providing transactional services to users. P. 7, lines 7-14.

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
	<p>Users access the network with a RS which is configured as a conventional personal computer enabled with software in conformity with the invention. The RS includes an INTEL based processor, RAM, ROM, and disk memory. P. 8, lines 1-14. Users access the network with their respective RS through a modem. P. 14, lines 5-7.</p> <p>The RS includes means for selectively storing programs and display data in the form of objects. The objects are stored at the RS in accordance with predetermined storage criteria. P. 10, lines 13-19. Filepp et al. disclose that "[o]bjects carry application program instructions and/or information for display at [the] monitor screen... of [the remote] RS." P. 9, lines 29-30.</p>
the remote program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the remote memory;	<p>Filepp et al. disclose that the revision indicia of a stored program is maintained with the object containing the program: "to effect object storage management, objects are provided with a coded version id made up of the storage control byte and version control bytes" which are "elements of the object header." P. 135, lines 22-25. The currency of objects stored at the RS is established by virtue of the object's storage control parameters and a check of the objects version identification prior to use. P. 10, lines 13-19.</p> <p>The terms "version" and "revision" are equivalents in the art. Alan et al. <i>Computer Desktop Encyclopedia</i>. Both terms denote the "currency" of the data to which they are respectively applied.</p>
a main computer including a main memory for storing the latest revisions of the program and a main program revision status,	<p>Filepp et al. disclose a main computer with memory for storing the most current revision indicia of an object (the main computer includes a file server and concentrator which, together, are called the network delivery system). P. 11, line 31 - p. 12, line 4. Information used in a remote RS either resides at the RS and is updated from the network, or is available on demand from the main computer (i.e., from the network delivery system). P. 13, lines 1-10.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the main memory;	<p>Filepp et al. disclose that the revision indicia of a stored program is maintained with the object containing the program. According to this storage plan, the version id define two fields, a first field to identify the object version and a second field to identify the object storage candidacy. P. 135, lines 25-28. As noted above, objects carry their version id with them in their respective headers wherever the object is stored.</p> <p>As noted, the most current version of an object is introduced at the network delivery system. P. 13, lines 1-10. Thus, the latest version level of the object will be at the network delivery system i.e., at the main computer.</p>
means for transmitting the remote program revision status from the remote computer to the main computer;	<p>Filepp et al. disclose that their system includes structure for transmitting version indicia from a remote computer to the network delivery system (or main computer). P. 146, line 27 - p. 148, line 15.</p> <p>As explained at p. 139, lines 23-36, as part of the object request procedure, the RS transmits the object version to ascertain the currency of the object. When a remote RS calls an object for use, the RS first sends a request to the delivery system (i.e., main computer) to verify the currency of the requested object. As part of that request, the RS sends the version and object id for the object. P. 139, lines 23-26.</p>
means for comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status;	<p>Filepp et al. disclose structure for comparing version indicia of objects stored at the RS and the network delivery system. Specifically, during version checking, when an object stored at a remote computer (RS) is initially fetched or accessed during a session, a request to the delivery system (i.e., the main computer) is made to verify object currency by specifying the version and id of the object stored at the remote computer. P. 139, lines 23-36. In response, the version id for a referenced object (i.e., the object at the remote RS) is compared by the network delivery system to the object version stored at the network delivery system. If the network delivery system determines the object version id is current it advises the RS that the object can be used. If the network delivery system determines the object is not current, a new object (i.e., the current object) is sent.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
means for determining which portions of the program stored in a main memory are different from the program stored in the remote memory;	Filepp et al. disclose structure for distinguishing between different versions of parts of programs. Filepp et al. describes individual object version checking. P. 139, lines 23-36.
means for transmitting updated portions of the program stored in the main computer to the remote computer;	Filepp et al. disclose structure for transmitting current versions of programs from the main computer to the RS. Thus, for example, in response to a request for an object version check, the network delivery system will advise the RS "either that the version id of the stored object matches the currency value; i.e., the stored object is acceptable, or deliver a current object that will replace the stored object shown to be stale." P. 139, lines 23-36.
means for replacing portions of the program stored in the remote computer with updated portions of the program received from the main computer; and	Filepp et al. disclose structure for replacing an outdated portion of a program stored at the RS with a current version received from the main computer. Where a version checked remotely stored object is found to be stale, the new object delivered by the distribution system will replace the old one. P. 139, lines 27-30.
means for transmitting the new program revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.	Because the version id is a part of the object header and accordingly the object itself (P. 135, lines 22-25 described above), the new version indicia is transmitted from the main computer to the RS when a new object is transmitted.

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>34. The system of claim 33, further comprising</p> <p>means for storing and maintaining variable data and constant data related to a plurality of products in the memory of the main computer,</p>	<p>Filepp et al. disclose a network delivery system (i.e., main computer) which stores data for delivery to a requesting remote RS, and routes data entered by the user or collected at the RS to the network. P. 11, line 31 - p. 12, line 4.</p> <p>Filepp et al. disclose, at p. 137, line 6 - p. 138, line 26, that objects can have different storage candidacy values which dictate whether and for how long objects (program instructions and/or data) are stored at the RS. Filepp et al's first or second values correspond to "variable data" and actually provide for at least two different degrees of variable data:</p> <p>A first candidacy value is applied where the object is very sensitive to time; e.g., news items, volatile pricing information such as might apply to stock quotes, etc. In accordance with this first value, the object will not be permitted to be stored on RS 400, and RS 400 will have to request such objects from delivery system 20 each time it is accessed, thus, assuring currency.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
	<p>A second value is applied where the object is sensitive to time but less so than the first case; e.g., the price of apples in a grocery shopping application. Here, while the price might change from day to day, it is unlikely to change during a session. Accordingly the object will be permitted to persist in RAM or at the disk cache during a session, but will not be permitted to be maintained at RS 400 between sessions.</p> <p>P. 137, lines 8-19. Filepp et al's third or fifth values corresponds to "constant data":</p> <p>[W]here the object concerns information sufficiently stable to be maintained between sessions, a third storage candidacy value is set to permit the object to be stored at RS 400 between sessions, on condition that the object will be version check[ed] the first time it is accessed in a subsequent session.</p> <p>P. 137, lines 20-25.</p> <p>Where the object is of a type required to be stored at RS 400, as for example, objects needed to support standard screens, it is coded for storage between sessions ... However, where such objects are likely to change in the future they may be required to be version checked the first time they are accessed in a session and thus [are] given a fifth storage candidacy value.</p> <p>P. 138, lines 1-7. Variable data thus does not persist at the remote RS beyond, at most, a particular user session; it is retrieved from the network delivery system when it is needed. Constant data is stored locally but is version checked when accessed. Thus, the most current constant data is always stored on the network.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>means for storing constant data related to a plurality of products in the memory of the remote computer,</p>	<p>An object storage facility provided in the RS software manages objects remotely stored in a local store including a cache (segmented between available RAM and a fixed size disk file) and stage (fixed size disk file). P. 133, line 30 - p. 134, line 28.</p> <p>RAM and disk cached objects persist on the remote RS at most for the duration of user sessions (and thus are "variable data"), while objects stored in the stage file are retained between sessions (and thus are "constant data"). The storage control field, located in the header portion of an object, described more fully hereafter as the object "storage candidacy", indicates whether the object is variable or constant:</p> <p>Stageable objects [i.e., constant data] must not be subject to frequent change or update. They are retained between user sessions on the system. . . Cacheable objects [i.e., variable data] can be retained during the current user session, but cannot be retained between sessions. These objects usually have a moderate update frequency. . . Trashable objects [also representing variable data] can be retained only while the user is in the context of the partitioned application in which the object was requested. Trashable objects usually have a very high update frequency and must not be retained to ensure that the user has access to the most current data. . . Specifically, to effect object storage management, objects are provided with a coded version id made up of the storage control byte and version control bytes identified above as elements of the object header. . .</p> <p>P. 134, line 2 - p. 135, line 25.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
	<p>Filepp et al. also disclose that constant data is stored at the remote computer:</p> <p>[Where] the object concerns information sufficiently stable to be maintained between sessions, a third storage candidacy value is set to permit the object to be stored at RS 400 between sessions, on condition that the object will be version check[ed] the first time it is accessed in a subsequent session.</p> <p>P. 137, lines 20-25.</p> <p>Where the object is of a type required to be stored at RS 400, as for example, objects needed to support standard screens, it is coded for storage between sessions ... However, where such objects are likely to change in the future they may be required to be version checked the first time they are accessed in a session and thus [are] given a fifth storage candidacy value.</p> <p>P. 138, lines 1-7.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>means for selecting a product from the remote computer memory for which product information is desired,</p>	<p>Filepp et al. disclose that a user, through a remote RS, can obtain information and perform transactions regarding a wide variety of products and services. P. 10, line 33 - p. 11, line 1. See also p. 137, lines 8-19.</p> <p>Filepp et al. give the example of a user at a remote computer purchasing an apple through the network. At p. 137, lines 13-19, the price of the apple is described as data transmitted from the network delivery system or main computer (i.e., variable data) because it changes so frequently that there is no point in storing it locally. At p. 148, line 26 - p. 153, line 10, the entire procedure by which the user interacts with the remote computer and the network to purchase apples is detailed. Again, at p. 149, line 36, the price of an apple is obtained from the network delivery system (or main computer) after being selected at the remote. The presentation data etc. related to the interactive apple purchase (i.e., constant data) is stored remotely because it does not change frequently. The constant presentation data etc. related to the purchase of apples is clearly shown in Filepp Fig. 3b, with blank spaces for the variable price data which is ultimately transmitted from the network computer.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>means for comparing constant data in the memory of the remote computer with constant data in the memory of the main computer,</p> <p>means for determining updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer that are different than the constant data stored in the remote computer,</p> <p>means for transmitting the updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer from the main computer to the remote computer, and</p> <p>means for replacing portions of the constant data stored on the remote computer with the updated portions of constant data received from the main computer.</p>	<p>As noted with respect to claim 33, above, Filepp et al. disclose that their system includes structure for transmitting version indicia from a remote computer to the network delivery system (or main computer). P. 146, line 27 - p. 148, line 15.</p> <p>As explained at p. 139, lines 23-36, as part of the object request procedure, the RS transmits the object version to ascertain the currency of the object. When a remote RS calls an object for use, the RS first sends a request to the delivery system (i.e., main computer) to verify the currency of the requested object. As part of that request, the RS sends the version and object id for the object. P. 139, lines 23-26.</p> <p>Additionally, Filepp et al. note that the RS includes means for communicating with the network to retrieve objects in response to events occurring at RS. P. 10, lines 10-12.</p> <p>Filepp et al. disclose structure for comparing version indicia of objects stored at the RS and the main computer. Specifically, during version checking, when an object stored at a remote computer (RS) is initially fetched or accessed during a session, a request to the delivery system (i.e., the main computer) is made to verify object currency by specifying the version and id of the object stored at the remote computer. P. 139, lines 23-36. In response, the version id for a referenced object (i.e., the object at the remote RS) is compared by the network delivery system to the object version stored at the network delivery system. If the network delivery system determines the object version id is current it advises the RS that the object can be used. If the network delivery system determines the object is not current, a new object (i.e., the current object) is sent.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
	<p>As described above, Filepp et al. disclose that the version of constant data available locally at the RS is compared to the version stored at the network delivery system and updated at the RS if necessary. P. 133, lines 7-13.</p> <p>Filepp et al. disclose that information stored at a remote computer is compared with corresponding information available at the network delivery system:</p> <p>[Where] the object concerns information sufficiently stable to be maintained between sessions, a third storage candidacy value is set to permit the object to be stored at RS 400 between sessions, on condition that the object will be version check[ed] the first time it is accessed in a subsequent session.</p> <p>P. 137, lines 20-25.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>35. The system of claim 34, further comprising</p> <p>means for integrating constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer associated with the selected product with the variable data received from the main computer to provide information related to the selected product including both constant and variable data.</p>	<p>As described above, Filepp et al. give the example of a user at the RS purchasing an apple through the network delivery system. At p. 137, lines 13-19, the price of the apple is variable data which changes so frequently that there is no point in storing it at the RS. At p. 148, line 26 - p. 153, line 10, the price of an apple is obtained from the network delivery system (or main computer) after being selected from the RS. The presentation data etc. related to the interactive apple purchase is constant data and is stored remotely because it does not change frequently. The constant presentation data etc. related to the purchase of apples is clearly shown in Filepp Fig. 3b, with blank spaces for the variable price data transmitted from the network delivery system. Thus, the constant data related to an apple purchase is integrated with variable data related to, e.g., the price of an apple obtained from the network delivery system.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>36. The system of claim 34, further comprising</p> <p>means for storing and maintaining a main constant data revision status in the memory of the main computer,</p>	<p>As noted above, objects carry their version id with them in their respective headers and accordingly, wherever the object is stored. Thus, the revision status of constant data is stored at the main computer with each object.</p> <p>Filepp et al's objects include, inter alia, program instructions (portions of a program) and data. P. 8, lines 25-28; p. 9, lines 29-30. As noted above, the main computer has a memory for storing the most current version indicia of an object. P. 11, line 31 - p. 12, line 4.</p> <p>Filepp et al. disclose that objects assigned specific storage candidacy values are stored at the remote computer and updated from the main computer as necessary:</p> <p>[Where] the object concerns information sufficiently stable to be maintained between sessions, a third storage candidacy value is set to permit the object to be stored at RS 400 between sessions, on condition that the object will be version check[ed] the first time it is accessed in a subsequent session.</p> <p>P. 137, lines 20-25.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>the main constant data revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the main computer, and</p>	<p>The revision indicia of a stored program is maintained with the object containing the program. To effect object storage, objects are provided with a coded version id made up of the storage control byte and version control bytes identified above as elements of the object header. P. 135, lines 22-28.</p> <p>As noted, the most current version of an object is introduced at the network delivery system. P. 13, lines 1-10. Since the object's version id is part of the object, the latest version level of the object will be at the network delivery system.</p> <p>Filepp et al. disclose that objects assigned specific storage candidacy values are stored at the remote computer and updated from the main computer as necessary:</p> <p>[Where] the object concerns information sufficiently stable to be maintained between sessions, a third storage candidacy value is set to permit the object to be stored at RS 400 between sessions, on condition that the object will be version check[ed] the first time it is accessed in a subsequent session.</p> <p>P. 137, lines 20-25.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
<p>means for storing a remote constant data revision status in the memory of the remote computer,</p> <p>the remote constant data revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the remote computer.</p>	<p>As noted with respect to claim 33, above, The RS includes means for selectively storing program instructions and display data in the form of objects. The objects are stored at the RS in accordance with a predetermined storage criteria. P. 10, lines 13-19. Filepp et al. disclose that "[o]bjects carry application program instructions and/or information for display at [the] monitor screen... of [the remote] RS." P. 9, lines 29-30.</p> <p>Filepp et al. disclose that the revision indicia of a stored program is maintained with the object containing the program: "to effect object storage management, objects are provided with a coded version id made up of the storage control byte and version control bytes" which are "elements of the object header." P. 135, lines 22-25. The currency of objects stored at the RS is established by virtue of the object's storage control parameters and a check of the objects version identification prior to use. P. 10, lines 13-19.</p> <p>As above, since a data object's version id is part of the object, the version for the object is stored wherever the object is stored. For constant data stored at the remote computer, its revision status is also stored there.</p> <p>Filepp et al. disclose that objects assigned specific storage candidacy values are stored at the remote computer:</p> <p>[Where] the object concerns information sufficiently stable to be maintained between sessions, a third storage candidacy value is set to permit the object to be stored at RS 400 between sessions, on condition that the object will be version check[ed] the first time it is accessed in a subsequent session.</p> <p>P. 137, lines 20-25.</p>

Proposed New Claims In The Present Filepp Et Al. Application	Support In Filepp Et Al. Disclosure For Proposed New Claims
37. The system of claim 36, wherein the means for comparing constant data in the memory of the remote computer with constant data in the memory of the main computer compares the remote constant data revision status with the main constant data revision status maintained in the main computer.	As described above, Filepp et al. disclose that the version of objects available locally at the RS is compared to the version stored at the network delivery system and updated at the RS if necessary. P. 133, lines 7-13.
38. The system of claim 37, wherein the means for transmitting updated portions of the constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer also transmits an updated remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.	Because the version id is a part of the object header and accordingly the object itself (P. 135, lines 22-25 described above), the new version indicia is transmitted from the main computer to the remote RS when a new object is transmitted.

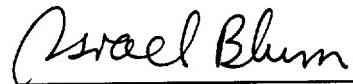
CONCLUSION

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for this Preliminary Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1963-4728. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,



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